

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

13 May 2021

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to you with regard to the great many British citizens who are currently attempting to return to the People's Republic of China for the purposes of family reunion, work, or study.

From 28 March 2020 the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom issued a notice stating that all entry to the country would be suspended, and holders of valid visas would be unable to travel. Although visa applications resumed in the summer of last year for a short time, on 04 November 2020 the Embassy announced a second suspension applying specifically to the UK, once again preventing holders of valid visas or residence permits from travelling. While this has now been eased somewhat, it is still virtually impossible for anyone to return to see their families or to continue their studies. As many of us have now been unable to see our families, or return to our lives in China, for at least 14 months now, we feel that it is time to approach you to ask for help in securing the protections that we desperately need.

We urge your government to communicate directly with the relevant representatives of the People's Republic of China to develop a pathway and framework for our return. We believe that it is vital to maintain and develop the strong relationship between the UK and China at the individual level, and that it is essential that the rights of families to see each other are protected. We want to emphasise how vital it is that those of us who have family in China, or study and work commitments to return to, are able to travel and we are asking your government to help us secure a means of return through the diplomatic channels that are open to you.

Furthermore, on 15 March 2021, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom released a notice stating that individuals based in the UK could now apply for a variety of visas, including for family reunion, provided they had been inoculated with a Chinese-produced COVID-19 vaccine. As you will be aware, there are no Chinese-produced vaccines that have yet been approved for use in the UK, and therefore this new policy has little effect. We therefore also ask your government to look into approval of any of the vaccines that have been produced in China, noting that the Sinopharm vaccine has recently received WHO emergency approval, as this would open up another option that would allow many of us to return to our families and livelihoods in China.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope that your government seriously considers our request to develop a pathway to ensure that citizens and residents of the UK are able to travel to China.

Yours sincerely,